

# Proposed NPDES Electronic Reporting Rule



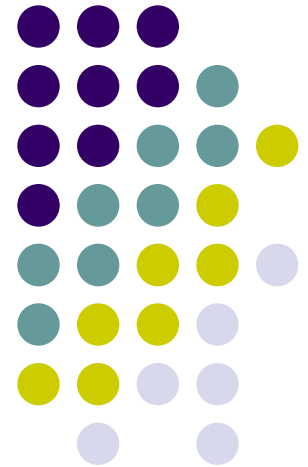
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Event confirmation number is 1603323

# Proposed NPDES Electronic Reporting Rule

Webinar Hosted by EPA for  
Region 2 States  
(NJ, NY, PR, VI)  
September 1, 2010



# Proposed NPDES Electronic Reporting Rule



## Today's meeting covers:

- Background of the Rulemaking and the NPDES Program
- Opportunities for Electronic Reporting
- State and Stakeholder Outreach
- Next Steps
- Questions

# Background of the Rulemaking



Why is this rulemaking important and what are its goals?

**It will help EPA and states clean up the nation's waters, by:**

- Getting more accurate, timely and complete information about the NPDES program;
- Saving permittees, states and EPA time and money;
- Giving the public more and improved information about sources of water pollution in their communities; and
- Making it possible to target compliance monitoring and enforcement to the most serious problems.

# Background on the Rulemaking



## **What is this proposed rule about?**

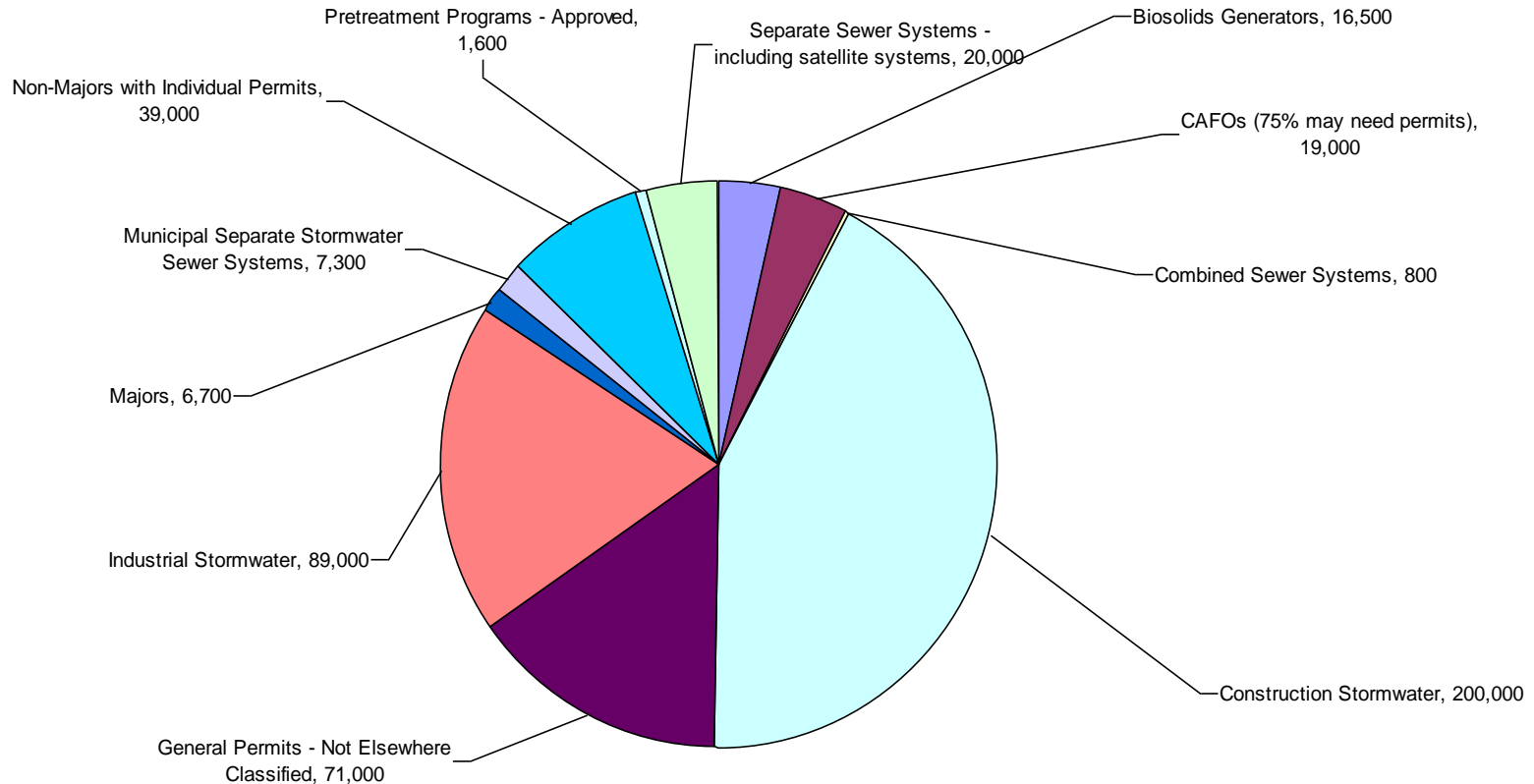
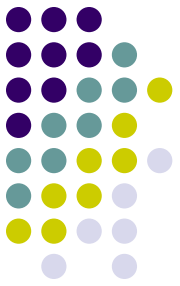
- Requiring all permittees to electronically submit DMRs, and possibly other NPDES reports.
- Defining how EPA and states share information electronically through the Exchange Network.
- Requiring authorized states to electronically provide EPA with information about permitted facilities, permits, inspections, violation determinations, enforcement actions, and penalties.

# Background on the NPDES Program



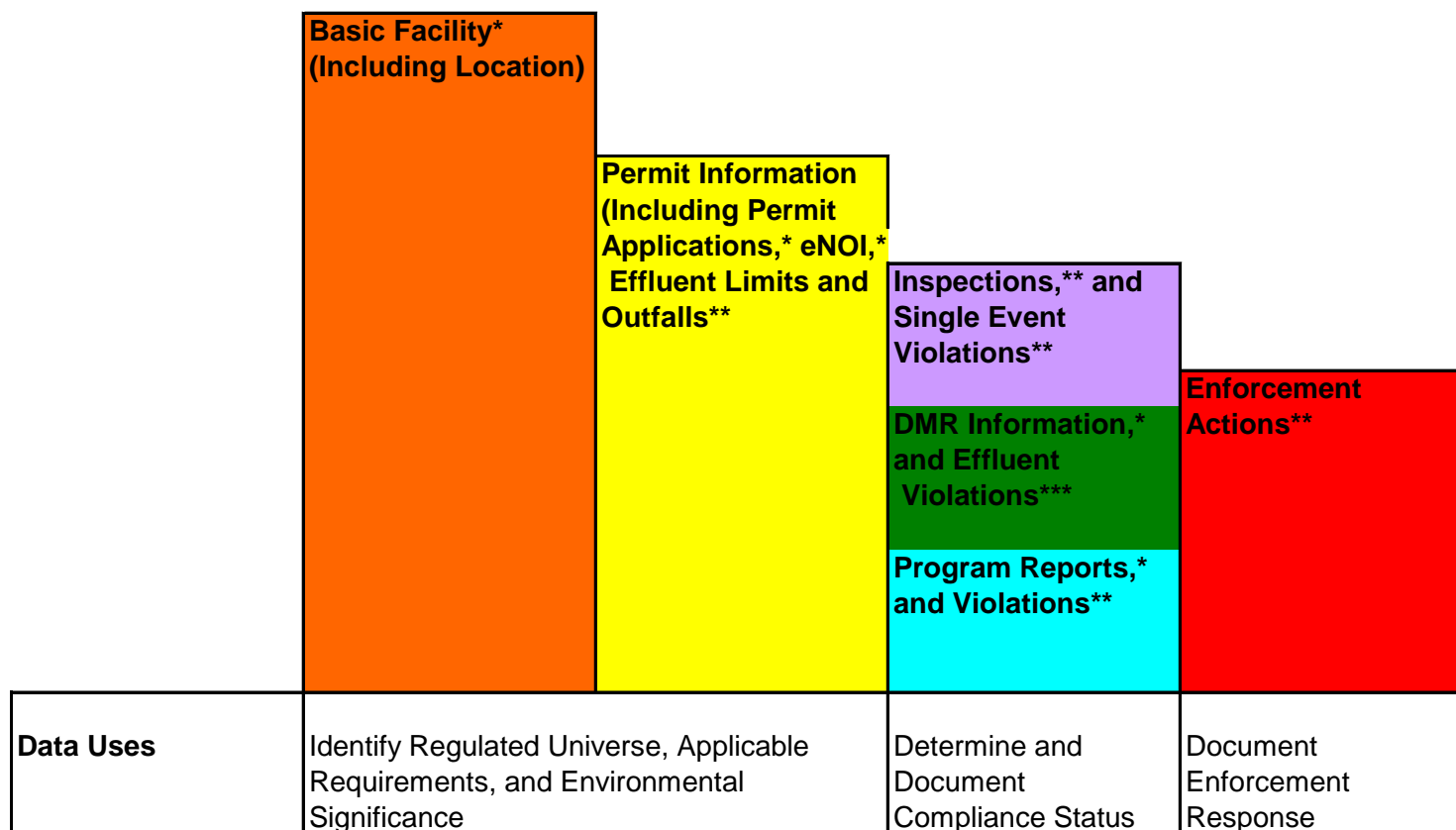
- NPDES regulated universe has expanded from ~100,000 to ~1 million sources.
- Focus has historically been on the largest permittees, though smaller sources are now recognized as significant contributors to water quality impairment.
- Current guidelines do not require states to report to EPA most information on smaller sources.
- The lack of information on smaller sources limits EPA's ability to identify and target some serious water quality problems and violations.
- Paper reporting to states creates a large processing burden.
- Developments in technology allow a new approach, that could make important NPDES information more accurate, more timely, and more useful.

# Facilities Required to Report, by NPDES Programs



Note: This graph covers all discharge sources except pretreatment industrial users and dischargers operating under general permits for vessels or pesticide applicators.

# Types of NPDES Data that are the focus of the proposed rule



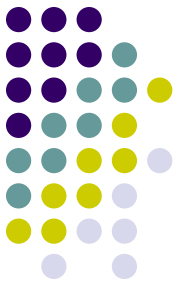
\*Data Supplied by Permittees

\*\*Data Supplied by States and EPA

\*\*\* Data Calculated by Data System



# Background on the NPDES Information Systems



## What is the current status of EPA's NPDES Information Systems?

- EPA's 30 year old Permit Compliance System (PCS) has become antiquated, slow, and error-prone.
- EPA developed the ICIS-NPDES information system to replace PCS.
- ICIS-NPDES has the capability to manage the full range of data and better support electronic reporting.

# Opportunities for Electronic Reporting



## Is NPDES electronic reporting new?

- EPA has implemented electronic reporting tools for Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) and Notices of Intent to Discharge (NOIs).
- States are adopting different aspects of e-reporting:
  - 17 states have some version of an electronic DMR (eDMR);
  - 4 states have some type of e-permitting; and
  - 8 states have some form of electronic NOI (eNOI).

# Opportunities for Electronic Reporting (cont.)



## What else is being considered?

- Expanding electronic reporting of DMRs
- Expanding electronic reporting of Notices of Intent for general permittees (e.g., construction sites with potential storm water issues)
- Electronic reporting of program reports required for some industry sectors (e.g., pretreatment, biosolids, CAFOs, CSO/SSO overflow reports)
- Electronic reporting to EPA of permit information, by the permittees where possible, and otherwise by the states.

# Opportunities for Electronic Reporting (cont.)



## DMRs

- DMRs are the largest volume of NPDES data submitted by permittees to states and EPA.
- Data in the DMRs is the cornerstone of the NPDES program – DMRs tell the states and EPA what pollutants are being discharged into the nation's waters.
- Each DMR summarizes a facility's discharge history for a period of time (usually monthly).
- By comparing information in the DMR to the permit limits, the states and EPA can determine whether a facility is complying with its permit.

# Opportunities for Electronic Reporting (cont.)



## eNOIs

- The majority of the NPDES regulated universe submits Notices of Intent to be covered under a NPDES general permit.
- Different industries have different general permits – e.g., vessels, seafood processors, construction activities, oil drilling rigs, etc.
- A significant number of permittees covered under a general permit are required to submit DMRs.

# Opportunities for Electronic Reporting (cont.)



## Program Reports

- Program reports are an efficient way to monitor facilities' compliance with permit conditions and to identify notable events.
- These reports are currently required for several types of NPDES permittees – e.g., CAFOs, biosolids generators and handlers, approved pretreatment programs, sewage treatment plants with overflows.
- Most program reports are submitted annually, but sewage overflows are reported as they occur.

# Opportunities for Electronic Reporting (cont.)



## Permit Information

- Information contained in a facility's permit is important to the states and EPA because it describes the regulated facility characteristics and applicable discharge limits, monitoring requirements and other operating conditions.
- Permit information is needed as the bases for reporting of additional information from the facility such as DMRs (DMRs tells the state or EPA whether a facility is complying with its permit).
- Most permits are issued by states. EPA is working with states to identify the best way for EPA to obtain permit information.



# State and Stakeholder Outreach

- States are critical partners in this effort, and EPA will be specifically engaging them on the development of the proposed rule.
- The public meeting was EPA's kick-off for introducing the rule to states and stakeholders.
- There is a NPDES Electronic Reporting Rule Website <http://www.regulations.gov/exchange/topic/npdes>, which includes a Discussion Forum to allow stakeholders to comment on the rulemaking.
- Webinars will be conducted for each of the EPA regions
  - logistical information is posted on the NPDES website.



# State Specific Outreach



## How is EPA working with its state partners?

- A State Group has been established to identify opportunities and resolve state concerns (e.g., implementation issues).
- This State Group is acting in a technical advisory role.
- For more information on this group, contact Chad Littleton at [littleton.chad@epa.gov](mailto:littleton.chad@epa.gov)


# Vision - NPDES Reporting Center

(concept)

A new innovative web page will greatly improve access to NPDES information and the transparency of the program.

As it is currently conceived, it will be a one-stop-shop for all NPDES data needs, such as:

- Submitting NPDES Reports and Applying for Permits
- Regulating wastewater discharges more efficiently
- Giving states, facilities and the public greater access to information about events affecting them or their communities

**NPDES** Electronic Reporting

Public

State

Permittee

Research

News and Updates

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

LOG IN

Customer ID/SSN

☐ Remember me

PIN

Go To

Start Page

Need help logging in?

[Security Notice](#)

**NPDES Vision**

**Protecting Our Navigable Waters**

Using new technology to get more accurate, timely and complete information to better protect the navigable water of the United States

Play a key role in the Clean Water Act Action Plan's focus on the most serious problems and improving efficiency. Giving the public more and better information about sources of water pollution in their communities.

[More Recent Features](#)

**NEW!**

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[Get the details!](#)

**ELECTRONIC REPORTING**

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[NetDMR](#)

[eNOI](#)

[Electronic State NPDES Permit Information](#)

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[Electronic Annual Compliance Certification](#)

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[FOIA](#)

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[Office of Human Resources](#)

[Regulation Development](#)

**Time to Make the Right Move**


**Who**

**What**

**When**

**Where**

**Why**



Time to make the right move. States have a big reporting burden already, we need to focus on what information states uniquely generate.

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**A New Approach**

**NPDES: Benefits**

EPA's old national NPDES data system, the Permit Compliant System (PCS) became antiquated, slow, and error-prone. ICIS-NPDES modernizes PCS.



**Cost Analysis**

NPDES Electronic Reporting shifts much of the burden from states to regulated sources and saves permittees, states and EPA time and money.

**NPDES UPDATES**

[Targeting Enforcement to the most serious problems](#)


[Listen to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson speak about NPDES Electronic Reporting](#)

[Visit the newly designed NPDES permit application page](#)

**The Environment Matters**

**Help keep our Nation's waters clean**

Office of Water supports the move to one NPDES national data system and expects that improved information will improve management and implementation



**Facility Reports**

**DC Blue Plains Plant**

10,139.99 2:07 PM ET 06/11/10



10,173
10,151
10,130
10,108
10,087

10a	11	12p	1	2	3	4
2,224.39			5.68	(0.26%)		
1,083.96			-2.88	(-0.26%)		
5,163.68			31.180	(0.61%)		
9,701.37			182.60	(1.70%)		

[More States & Facilities](#)

**TOP NEWS**

40 MINUTES AGO

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[Town receives wastewater grant from EPA](#)

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**WHAT'S THE RULE ABOUT**

[Using new technology](#)

BY GILLIAN TETT

Using new technologies to get more, timely and complete information about the NPDES program. This new technology saves permittees, states and the EPA time and money.

[More](#)

**SPOTLIGHT**

DELAYED QUOTE — 1:12 PM ET 06/11/10

State	MAJ/MIN	Total
SC	-0.01 (-0.26%)	283.9M
AZ	-0.04 (-0.04%)	118.5M
DE	+1.09 (+3.33%)	96.7M
FL	+0.03 (+17.05%)	74.8M
IA	+0.05 (+0.32%)	73.5M
KS	+0.16 (+0.36%)	44.6M
ME	+0.49 (+3.27%)	42.3M
MI	0 (0%)	40.4M
MO	-0.15 (-1.99%)	38.2M
MS	+0.43 (+0.67%)	34.9M

# Next Steps



## **After extensive stakeholder outreach and input, the process will continue with:**

- Decision by EPA Senior Management as to what will be included in the proposed rule: September 2010
- Final Agency Review (FAR) of the draft proposed rule and preamble prior to publication: December 2010
- The President's management and budget office (OMB) begins its review of the proposed rule: January 2011
- Formal publication of the proposed rule in the *Federal Register*: April 2011
- Start of the formal Public Comment Period on the proposed rule: May 2011
- EPA prepares responses to public comments and possibly revises the proposed rule on the basis of those comments
- Formal publication of Final Rule in the *Federal Register*: September 2012

# For More Information on the NPDES Electronic Reporting Rule



## **Contact:**

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202-566-0742

Andrew Hudock, [hudock.andrew@epa.gov](mailto:hudock.andrew@epa.gov),  
202-564-6032

**Visit:** <http://www.regulations.gov/exchange/topic/npdes>

**Email:** [npdes\\_electronicreportingrule@epa.gov](mailto:npdes_electronicreportingrule@epa.gov)



Questions?